

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     MANAMA 02124 141558Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 124353 /53  
R 141303Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3958

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 2124

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS     : PFOR, BA  
SUBJECT   : MIDEASTFOR WITHDRAWAL: COMMUNICATIONS ASPECT

REF       : (A) COMIDEASTFOR DTG 101425Z DEC 76 (B) NCSO BAHRAIN  
           DTG 111810Z DEC 76

1. ONE OF COMPLICATING ASPECTS OF MIDEASTFOR WITHDRAWAL, SHOULD IT TAKE PLACE AS NOW PLANNED, IS THAT OF CONTINUING COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT FOR OTHER USG AGENCIES NOW SERVED BY MIDEASTFOR. AS DEPT AWARE, MIDEASTFOR PROVIDES RECORD COMMUNICATIONS FOR EMBASSY MANAMA, DEFENSE FUEL QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICE HERE IN BAHRAIN, AND FOR USMTM DHAHRAN. WHILE EMBASSY WILL BE ABLE ASSUME ITS OWN COMMUNICATIONS BY APRIL 1, 1977, BOTH DFQAO AND USMTM MUST BEGIN NOW TO PLAN FOR THEIR FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS. DFQAO, AS NEA/EX IS AWARE, HAS APPROACHED EMBASSY INFORMALLY TO LEARN IF EMBASSY COULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY AND EMBASSY, INFORMALLY, HAS INFORMED DFQAO THAT, UNDER CONTEMPLATED EMBASSY STAFFING PATTERNS, IT COULD NOT. REFTELS, BEING REPEATED TO DEPT, REFLECT BEGINNING OF DETAILED PLANNING WITHIN DOD TO HANDLE USMTM COMMUNICATIONS FOLLOWING MIDEASTFOR WITHDRAWAL. PURPOSES OF THIS MESSAGE ARE TO ACQUAINT DEPT WITH THIS PLANNING AND TO SUGGEST THAT DEPT. COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH APPROPRIATE DOD COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL TO ASSURE THAT POLICY CONCERNS ARE NOT OVERLOOKED IN PLANNING FOR FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT FOR DFQAO AND USMTM.

2. FROM REFTELS, THEMSELVES REPEATS OF MESSAGES ORIGINATING WITHIN DOD COMMO AGENCIES, IT APPEARS THAT FIVE ALTERNATIVES  
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PAGE 02     MANAMA 02124 141558Z

FOR FUTURE USMTM COMMUNICATIONS ARE BEING EXPLORED BY DOD:

(A) RETAIN NAVY COMMO FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL IN BAHRAIN FOLLOWING MIDEASTFOR WITHDRAWAL; (B) RETXHN FACILITIES BUT REPLACE NAVY PERSONNEL WITH ARMY PERSONNEL; (C) RETAIN EXISTING FACILITY BUT TURN IT OVER TO CONTRACTOR TO RUN ON BEHALF USMTM; (D) MOVE USMTM RECORD COMMUNICATIONS FROM MANAMA TO DHAHRAN; (E) MOVE USMTM COMMO FROM MANAMA TO RIYADH. CLEARLY, ANY OF FIRST THREE ALTERNATIVES WOULD REQUIRE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOB AND FIRST TWO AT LEAST WOULD PRESENT SOME POLITICAL PROBLEMS. CHIEF DISADVANTAGE OF MOVING USMTM COMMO OUT OF BAHRAIN, EITHER TO DHAHRAN OR RIYADH, PRESUMABLY IS COST. THERE WILL OF COURSE BE NO DISCUSSIONS WITH GOB ON ANY ASPECT OF THIS SUBJECT WITHOUT PRIOR DEPT. CLEARANCE.

3. IN ADDITION TO CONSIDERATION OF POLITICAL ASPECTS OF TRYING TO KEEP MILITARY COMMO FACILITY IN BAHRAIN AFTER MIDEASTFOR WITHDRAWAL, DEPT SHOULD ALSO KEEP FOLLOWING IN MIND WHEN DISCUSSING SUBJECT WITH DOD:

- SO FAR THERE SEEMS TO BE NO COORDINATED CONSIDERATION IN DOD OF BOTH USMTM'S AND DFQAO'S FUTURE COMMO NEEDS;
- PRESENT SHORE FACILITY REALLY NECESSARY ONLY FOR DFQAO, USMTM, AND EMBASSY SINCE MIDEASTFOR HAS ADEQUATE CAPABILITY OF FLAG SHIP;
- COMIDEASTFOR WOULD LIKE IF POSSIBLE TO CLOSE DOWN SHORE FACILITY WELL BEFORE JUNE 30, PERHAPS ON APRIL 1, SINCE IT IS OPERATION HE DOES NOT NEED.
- SHORE FACILITY OF COURSE IS IN BUILDING AND AREA WHICH GOB WOULD EXPECT TO HAVE REVERT TO IT AFTER WITHDRAWAL;
- THERE MAY BE TENDENCY WITHIN SOME DOD OFFICES TO ASK THAT FACILITY BE MADE PART OF AND BE OPERATED BY EMBASSY.

4. SUGGEST DEPT CONTACT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVELS WITHIN DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM TO ASSURE THAT EFFORTS OF LOWER ECHELON COMMANDS TO RESOLVE THESE COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS ARE PROPERLY COORDINATED TO INCLUDE BOTH DFQAO AND USMTM AND THAT DEPT AND EMBASSY ARE INFORMED IN DETAIL AND CONSULTED AS EXPLORATION OF ALTERNATIVES GOES FORWARD.  
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